



NEW BREWERY TO TRANSFORM HISTORIC BUILDING

Moontown Brewing Company to Breathe New Life into Old School

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WHITESTOWN, Ind. – It's a building that's full of great memories for generations of Whitestown residents. Students graduated from the former Whitestown High School from 1914 to 1963. The gymnasium was often filled with the sounds of students chatting, the band performing, and basketballs being bounced on the old court during Panther's games.

This formative part of Whitestown's history now sits dilapidated and silent. There's no working plumbing, power or air conditioning. The windows are busted out and the old court is covered with a thick layer of dirt and dust. But there's now a plan to bring the historic building back to life.

"It's just such a terrific space." Said Pete Mattingly, "It has so much potential and we're very excited to see what it will evolve into."

Pete Mattingly, a commercial builder by trade and a serious craft brewer by hobby, plans to open a brewpub inside the former high school, making a significant investment to renovate the building, which was built in the early 1900's. The new Moontown Brewing Company will feature six house brews, including favorites Bright Side of the Moon Breakfast Stout, King of Troy Lager, Moontown Honey Brown and Summer Sunshine Session IPA. Four to six seasonal offerings will be served as well.

Pete Mattingly and his home brewing partners have dreamed of opening a brewpub for more than a decade. But that dream began to become reality after they won last year's Home Brew Competition at the first annual Whitestown Brew Fest. It was at the Brew Fest that Pete began speaking with Town of Whitestown and Boone County Economic Development Corporation leaders about opening a brewpub in fast-growing Whitestown. When the long time Boone County resident saw the old high school, he knew the space had the historic charm he'd been searching for.

Pete's son Patrick Mattingly, who is one of the business partners undertaking the project, is excited about the restaurant aspect of the family business, which will use local produce and ingredients whenever possible. "We're very into locally sourced food and locally sourced beer ingredients." He said. "The restaurant will have a casual, friendly environment with great beer and simple but delicious food."

The owners also plan to use part of the 10,000 square foot building as a concert and event venue down the road. “We have a great space with a stage built in. So there’s great potential to feature local bands eventually.” Said Patrick Mattingly. “We’ve also talked about hosting winter farmers markets and utilizing the space as an indoor beer garden during those gnarly winter months.”

There will be outdoor seating as well. But despite all the changes, the owners plan to preserve the turn-of-the-century building’s history. “We will rehab the beautiful, round windows and the gym floor where the Whitestown Panther’s played. We want to preserve the old gym’s look and feel as much as possible. We’ve even talked about creating a new ‘Panther Brew’ to honor the building’s past as we celebrate its future.” Said Pete Mattingly.

As for the Brewery’s name, it has local origins too. One of the partners grew up in Noblesville, near Moontown Road. He would often hang out with friends along Moontown Road before the area was developed and share a beer or two. The name stuck. In fact, the business partners have been referring to their ‘Moontown Brewing Company’ for more than a decade now – long before they had a location picked out.

The owners are thrilled that Moontown Brewing Company will be just steps from the new Big 4 Trail that will eventually connect all of Boone County and beyond. “We look forward to having people walk and bike to Moontown from all over the area.” Said Pete Mattingly.

Town Manager Dax Norton believes the new brewery and the new trail will both help draw people to Whitestown’s Legacy Core and help spur revitalization in the Town’s historic district. “Our Legacy Core is on the verge of becoming a vibrant destination once again, like it was when the railroad ran through town. Entrepreneurs are already seeing the potential in that area and we believe the Big 4 Trail and Moontown Brewing Company are two, big puzzle pieces that will help transform that area faster, while also bringing an artsy, trendy vibe that our residents will really enjoy.”

Construction will begin over the winter. Moontown Brewing Company plans to open early next summer.

Media Contact:

Tanya Sumner
Assistant Town Manager/Director of Public Relations
Town of Whitestown
6210 Veterans Drive
Whitestown, IN 46075
o: (317) 732-4536
c: (317) 914-7707
www.whitestown.in.gov
tsumner@whitestown.in.gov

